

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ACCRA 01734 051257Z

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ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1454

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 1734

LIMDIS

FOR LONDON AND AMSTERDAM: AMBASSADOR SHIRLEY TEMPLE BLACK
DEPARTING LONDON TODAY FOR AMSTERDAM. LONDON PLEASE PASS TO
AMBASSADOR AT BERKELEY HOTEL; AMSTERDAM PLEASE PASS TO
AMBASSADOR AT HOTEL AMSTEL

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S TRIP TO AFRICA

REF: ACCRA 1147

1. SUMMARY: MFA DIRECTOR EUROPE AND AMERICAS GEORGE LAMPTEY
CALLED ME IN FIRST THING TODAY, MARCH 5, TO EXPRESS GOG DISMAY
THAT GHANA NOT INCLUDED IN LIST AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED
BY THE SECRETARY AS REPORTED BY VOA AND BBC. GIST OF HIS
MESSAGE WAS THAT FAILURE TO VISIT GHANA WOULD BE INDICATION
THAT GHANA "SECOND-BEST" AND TAKEN FOR GRANTED BY USG.
END SUMMARY.

2. I WAS CALLED SHORTLY AFTER MFA OPENING OF BUSINESS MARCH 5
AND ASKED TO VISIT MFA THIRTY MINUTES LATER. ON ARRIVAL
LAMPTEY LAUNCHED INTO HIS SUBJECT WITHOUT HIS USUAL AFFABLE
PRELIMINARIES. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN CALLED EARLY THIS MORNING
BY HIS SENIORS WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHY GHANA WAS NOT ON THE
TRIP LIST REPORTED BY VOA AND BBC NEWS. LAMPTEY TOLD THEM
HE HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF SECRETARY'S VISIT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ACCRA 01734 051257Z

WITH EMBASSY OFFICIAL (REFTEL) AND HAD INDICATED THAT SECRETARY

WOULD RECEIVE WARM WELCOME HERE. LAMPTEY WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF THE SECRETARY VISITED NEARBY NIGERIA WITHOUT VISITING GHANA IT COULD ONLY MEAN THAT GHANA IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED BY USG. HE REPEATED THE TAKEN-FOR-GRANTED PHRASE SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE CONVERSATION AS WELL AS ADDING REFERENCES TO GHANA BEING CONSIDERED SECOND BEST BY THE US.

3. LAMPTEY MADE BRIEF REVIEW OF OTHER VIP VISITORS TO GHANA INCLUDING VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS NIXON AT 1957 INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES, SECRETARY ROGER'S VISIT IN 1970 AND MRS NIXON'S VISIT IN 1972 STRESSING THAT THESE VISITORS WERE ALL WARMLY WELCOMED TO GHANA. HE LAID PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON GHANA'S WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE THEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS IN 1975 "UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES".

4. I POINTED OUT THAT THE SECRETARY COULD NOT POSSIBLY VISIT EVERY AFRICAN COUNTRY AND THAT OBVIOUSLY THE BEST HE COULD DO WOULD BE TO VISIT A LIMITED NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AROUND THE CONTINENT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF AFRICA'S PROBLEMS. LAMPTEY'S REJOINDER WAS THAT GHANA WAS NOT JUST ANY AFRICAN COUNTRY BUT ONE WHICH PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN AFRICAN POLITICS. HE ADDED THAT IF THE SECRETARY WOULD BE IN THE AREA HE SHOULD VISIT GHANA. I ASKED IF THAT MEANT GHANA WAS EXTENDING AN INVITATION TO THE SECRETARY TO VISIT, HE REPLIED THAT GHANA HAD ALREADY INDICATED IT WOULD WELCOME SECRETARY'S VISIT AND AN INVITATION SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED NECESSARY. HE STATED EXPLICITLY, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOG VERY MUCH DESIRES A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOG HAD MUCH TO DISCUSS WITH THE SECRETARY AND IS VERY ANXIOUS TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF DOING SO IN ACCRA. I ASSURED HIM I WOULD REPORT OUR MEETING TO WASHINGTON PROMPTLY.

5. COMMENT: UNCHARACTERISTIC SPEED WITH WHICH MFA REACTED TO NEWS BROADCAST UNDERLINES STRONG GOG CONCERN THAT SECRETARY VISIT GHANA. GOG PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO INDICATION SECRETARY WILL VISIT NIGERIA WITH WHICH GHANA HAS ALWAYS HAD LOVE/HATE RELATIONSHIP. GHANA HAS ALSO FELT THAT IT TOOK THE LEAD IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OVER NIGERIA AND HAD SOME REASON TO FEEL THAT WAY AT LEAST UNTIL VERY RECENTLY. I AM VERY WELL AWARE THAT SECRETARY'S TIME IS LIMITED AND THAT DEMANDS FOR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ACCRA 01734 051257Z

VISITS MUST BE NUMEROUS. I MUST ADD IN ALL CANDOR, NONETHELESS, THAT WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY, EVEN AS BRIEF AS A LUNCHEON STOP, WOULD BE A WISE INVESTMENT OF TIME BOTH IN TERMS OF GOG-USG RELATIONS AND, EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, IN TERMS OF INFLUENCING GHANA IN MULTILATERAL ASSEMBLIES. GOG IS MODERATE AS INDICATED BY STATESMANLIKE QUALITY OF COL ACHEAMPONG'S REPLY TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER ON ANGOLA. AT THIS TIME AFTER BUFFETING ON MPLA AND NIGERIA COUP ISSUES

AND CONTINUING DIET OF NEWS STORIES FROM US PRESS ON US CONVERT
AND INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES, THIS MODERATION NEEDS
REINFORCEMENT IN THE WAY THAT ONLY THE SECRETARY CAN DO IT.
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